

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 13-17, as shown below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving at a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy;

receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy; and

sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the usage policy is defined by the user.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing the broker with a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the providing comprises providing the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar attributes with defined strictness level parameter values.

5-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
releasing user data when each of said at least one strictness level parameter value for the at least one attribute of the privacy policy is less than or equal to the corresponding defined strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute in the received usage policy.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
indicating, in the response by the broker, a strictness level parameter value of an attribute of the usage policy to the service provider when the corresponding strictness

level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

allowing the user to reduce a strictness level parameter value of an attribute in the usage policy when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy to be reduced.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

attaching an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

11. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a service provider possessing a privacy policy; and

a broker hosting a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy, wherein the broker is configured to check a request from the service provider against the usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness

level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy, wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy, and the broker is configured to send a response to the service provider indicating whether data associated with the user can be released in response to the request based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

12. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

introducing means for introducing to a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy;

receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

checking means for checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy; and

sending means for sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

at least one memory including computer code,

at least one processor,

wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to

~~a receiver configured to receive a request for data associated with a user from a service provider, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy; and~~

~~a processor configured to check the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy; and~~

~~to send a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with~~

attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to the processor is further configured to: release user data when each of said at least one strictness level parameter value for the at least one attribute privacy policy is less than or equal to the corresponding defined strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute in the received usage policy.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to the processor is further configured to: indicate, in the response, a strictness level parameter value of an attribute of the usage policy to the service provider when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to the processor is further configured to: allow the

user to reduce a strictness level parameter value of an attribute in the usage policy when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy to be reduced.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to ~~the processor is further configured to:~~ attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with a user from a service provider, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

checking means for checking the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy; and

sending means for sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable components, the components configured to:

receive a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy;

receive a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

check the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy; and

send a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

20. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the usage policy is defined by the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

receive a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

22. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, wherein receiving the predefined set comprises receiving the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar attributes with defined strictness level parameter values.

23-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

release user data when each of said at least one strictness level parameter value for the at least one attribute of the privacy policy is less than or equal to the corresponding defined strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute in the received usage policy.

26. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

indicate, in the response, a strictness level parameter value of an attribute of the usage policy to the service provider when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy.

27. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

allow the user to reduce a strictness level parameter value of an attribute in the usage policy when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy to be reduced.

28. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.